THE OBSERVER.

.....

BY BEATRICE IRONSIDE.

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THE FRIEND OF SOCRATES, THE FRIEND OF PLATO,
BUT ABOVE ALL, THE FRIEND OF TRUTH.

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For the Observer.

THE CAMELEON No. III....BY THOMAS FICKLE, ESQ.

.....*shoot folly as it flies,*
And catch the manners living as they rise. POPE.

The smiling aspect of nature had banished from my mind the gloomy impregnations which disagreeable weather had created, and my imagination had arisen on expanded wings, to hover over the happy scenes of life, as I eagerly snatched my pen to sketch an essay for my next number, dictated by the warmth of my fancy and partaking of the felicity of my mind. I had not proceeded far in my design, when *Lively* burst into my study, set my ideas to flight by his volubility, and deprived me at once of the advantage of the fervidity of my soul for endeavouring to please the readers of the *Cameleon,* and thus dissolve part of that debt which I had voluntarily assumed to pay. After every subject, from the dryness of legal study to the ephemeral fashions had been canvassed, and the torrent of his eloquence had subsided, I mildly remonstrated with him on interrupting me when the full tide of my imagination had promised me something amusing for my readers. He answered, by presenting me the following letter with Miss Voluble's compliments..."There, says he, a lady has honored you by becoming your correspondent, and surely you cannot be displeased with me, when offering such a present from one of her beauty and merit. However, she desires that you peruse her letter and publish it, if not exceptionable."...He then entered into a dissertation on her virtues, amiability and conciliating manners, to which my reflections on the novelty of being so soon addressed by a lady, prevented me from attending. I discovered however, by the length of his harangue and the catalogue of her merits, which he continually repeated, that my friend had imbibed the *belle passion* from Miss Mary, but that being nothing unusual, I did not offer my observations on his captivator. With willingness I will become the receptacle of her remarks on any subject; and I doubt not, my readers will attend to the discourse of a fashionable young lady more readily, than to such a whimsical being as myself. The subject of her letter is a fine field for reprehension. I had intended to have attempted the task myself, but I cheerfully resign it to one whose

observations will have more avail than mine. The present fashions are mostly ridiculous in the extreme, and furnish laughter to a common observer, as well a philosophic mind,

"Si foret in terris, rideret Democritus."

But to my letter...I publish it as I received it, without amendment, and shall think myself honored by her future correspondence.

To THOMAS FICKLE, ESQ.

SIR,

I hope you will perform your promise of sometimes treating us with your remarks on fashionable personages, and lash those teizing animals which encircle the ladies, and poison their minds with flattery. For Heaven's sake, Mr. Fickle, never assume the dark hue of melancholy, or tincture your lucubrations with the dryness of moral precepts...we have had a satiety of them. We expect a full and circumstantial account of all fashionable amusements, of every party which occurs in this city, and particularly criticisms on the dress and behaviour of our belles and beaux. I have been for some years, a constant attendant at the assemblies ; and not a dancing rout or *converzazione* assembly is in Baltimore, but what your correspondent is seen there. I can reflect *sometimes*, and make my observations on the gay scenes in which I am conversant : you, Sir, shall be my depositary ; and I shall accept no excuse for your not receiving them I have perceived much awkwardness in the first entrance into company, of both ladies and gentlemen. This I would wish to remedy, and from my experience and observation, I think myself a qualified preceptor ; if any will observe my directions, I will warrant success. To begin with a gentleman, who, we suppose has received a *bid* from visiting a bride, or a *challenge* from an acquaintance to spend the evening in the gay circles of fashion and dance away the hours of midnight. A deficiency of impudence is unpardonable in a young man ; but as it seldom happens, and when it does, a few evenings furnish him with his quota, I shall give no instruction on that score. He should dress with studied negligence and be singular in all his actions, always remembering that negligence and eccentricity are *certain* diagnostics of genius, and who would not desire to be called a genius by loveliness and fashion. In conversation he should affect an indifference towards the ladies as they are most pleased when he appears not to regard them with attention. He should never directly assent to an opinion expressed in his presence by a lady or a gentleman. If the former, he may with some hesitation relinquish in her favour, but he should always declare her arguments as the efficients of his conversion : if the latter he may modify the sentiment and deliver it as a new opinion. This will give the company an exalted idea of his talents and judgment. He should weave occasionally, in his conversation, an oath and sarcastic remarks on

the ladies. It is quite the rage to behave brutally to the fair sex. When he stands up to dance with his partner, he should place himself in an indifferent posture, twirling his watch key and chatting with the ladies ; and he should always forget it is his time to commence dancing. He should request his partner to excuse his ignorance of the figures and requisite steps, and desire her to direct him. To be acquainted with such trifles is perfectly unfashionable, as the minds of our beaux cannot pay so much attention to trivial subjects as they would require...higher attainments, such as the cut of a coat or the make of a pair of boots are the proper sphere : if accidentally he should betray his acquaintance with a figure, he should declare he performed quite mechanically, as he never before danced that cotillion. But above all he should not neglect kicking very much whilst dancing. If there are looking-glasses in the room, he can observe the comeliness of his person and the gracefulness of his dancing. Besides if perchance his *brutus* is depressed, which can be discovered only by the glasses, he can rectify it by sliding his fingers between the hairs of his head, and make it as erect as formerly. But let him be certain, while he stands admiring himself, his admiration may not produce some ridiculous action. I once saw, when a certain gentleman, a celebrated character in the fashionable world, and who is a perfect Narcissus, making an inclination of his head to his image, it came in contact with a lady's and produced a hollow disagreeable sound, somewhat resembling that of an empty barrel struck. If a gentleman obeys these directions, he may be certain of being admired by the ladies as a very clever fellow and cited as an instance of gentility and politeness.——Well, Mr. Fickle, have I not described a *beau* without overstepping the modesty of nature. Now, I think my own sex requires some instruction from me and lest you should complain of the fault generally attributed to my sex, I shall be brief in my advice.

In their dress, the ladies should carefully expose their white necks and arms to the contemplation of the gentlemen, and should receive the compliments paid with becoming modesty, calling it flattery, to extort fresh encomiums from them. They should be perfect adepts in dancing, for the pleasure of instructing the gentlemen. They should always squeeze very much for places, as this is the height of fashionable politeness. In conversation, they should complain of the tiresomeness of dancing, but should be continually on the floor.....They should recount, with exultation, how often they have danced, and with what charming fellows....How often the managers have compelled them to set down to give place to ladies who have not danced, and conclude by hoping, they shall not feel the next morning, the effects of being *compelled* to dance so often, by the importunity of the gentlemen. The full artillery of their charms should assist

this harangue, and the conversation be made more expressive, by bursts of laughter at every interval.

Here, Mr. Fickle, I must bid you adieu for the first time ; but unless the indispensable regulations of fashion prevent me, you shall hear from me again.

I am Sir, yours,

V. MARY VOLUBLE.

CRITICISM.

POSTHUMOUS MEMOIRS OF MARMONTEL.

(Continued from page 140.)

Brilliant as this society must be allowed to be, we should give but an imperfect view of its attractions, if we omitted to represent it in its more limited and confidential compartments. Marmontel has been fortunate enough to draw the cabinet picture from life also.

" After having dined at Madame Geoffrin's with men of letters or with the artists, I was again with her in the evening in a more intimate society ; for she had also granted me the favour of admitting me to her little suppers. The feast was very moderate ; it was commonly a chicken, some spinage, an omelet.... The company were not numerous ; they consisted at most of five or six of her particular friends, or of three or four men and women of the first fashion, selected to their taste, and reciprocally happy to be together.....But whatever these convivial circles might be, Bernard and I were admitted to them. One of them only had excluded Bernard, but had approved of me. The group that composed it, consisted of three ladies and but one gentleman. The three ladies, who might well be likened to the three goddesses of Mount Ida, were the beautiful Countess de Brionne, the beautiful Marchioness de Duras, and the charming Countess d'Egmont. Their Paris was the Prince Louis de Rohan. But I suspect that at that time he gave the apple to Minerva ; for to my mind the Venus of the supper was the seducing and engaging d'Egmont. She was the daughter of Marshal Richelieu, and she had the vivacity, the wit, the graces of her father : she had too, as was said, his volatile and voluptuous disposition ; but this was what neither Madame Geoffrin nor myself had any appearance of knowing. The young Marchioness de Duras, with as much of modesty as Madame d'Egmont had of charming grace, gave us the idea of Juno, by her noble severity, and by a character of beauty that had neither elegance nor delicacy. As for the Countess de Brionne, if she were not Venus herself, it was not that in the perfect regularity of her form, and of all her features, she did not unite all that can be imagined to paint ideal beauty. Of all charms, she wanted but one, without which there

is no Venus on earth, and which made the witchery of Madame d'Egmont: it was the air of voluptuousness. As to the Prince de Rohan, he was young, active, wild, with a good heart; lofty by starts when in concurrence with dignities that rivalled his own, but gayly familiar with men of letters who were free and simple like me.

"You may readily conceive that at these little suppers, my self-love was in league with all the means I might have of being amusing and agreeable. The new tales that I was then writing, and of which these ladies had the first offerings, were, before or after supper, an entertaining reading for them. They made regular appointments to hear them, and when the little supper was prevented by any accident, they assembled at dinner at Madame de Brionne's. I confess that no success ever flattered me so sensibly as that which these readings obtained in this little circle, where wit, taste, beauty, all the graces were my judges, or rather my applauders. There was not a single trait, either in my colouring or my dialogue, however minutely delicate and subtle, that was not forcibly felt; and the pleasure I gave had the air of enchantment. What enraptured me, was to see so perfectly the most beautiful eyes in the world swimming in tears at the little touching scenes where I made love or nature weep. But in spite of the indulgence of an excessive politeness, I well perceived too the cold and feeble passages which they passed over in silence, as well as those where I had mistaken the word, the tone of nature, or the just shade of truth; and these passages I noted, to correct them at my leisure."...II. p. 144—48.

This, we suppose, is the *ultimatum;* and we have no doubt it was very charming; yet a great part of this charm was probably derived from the proud and unsocial idea of exclusion, against which we have also protested:—the fashionable mob was shut out from these little suppers; that mob which would have thought it an honour to be admitted to them; and this was the great consolation of those who were retained. Take away this trait of distinction, and it will not be difficult to conceive an assemblage more calculated for social enjoyment, than four ladies supping quietly with one prince and an humble man of letters, who amused them with reading his works to them. The works could not be much better before they were printed than afterwards; and we should really think it rather a bad symptom of a gay, gallant, and intimate party, that they could not amuse themselves better in an evening, than by reading each other asleep over fairy tales.

We are tempted to add one picture more to the splendid gallery, we have already run over so rapidly. It is that of Madlle. l'Espinasse, the friend of d'Alembert, and the idol, it appears, of the whole of Madame Geoffrin's assembly. Of her, Marmontel speaks in the following terms of hyperbolical approbation.

"I cannot mention the Graces, without speaking of one who had all this gift both in mind and in language,—it was the friend of d'Alembert, M. l'Espinasse, a wonderful composition of correctness, talent, and prudence, with the liveliest fancy, the most ardent soul, and inflammable imagination that has existed since the days of Sappho. The continued object of attention, whether she spoke (and no one spoke better) or whether she listened; without coquetry she inspired us with the innocent desire of pleasing her; without prudery, she made freedom feel how far it might venture, without disturbing modesty or wounding decorum. No where was conversation more lively, more brilliant, nor better regulated than in her society. That degree of temperate and ever equal warmth, in which she knew how to support it, now by gently inclining it to moderation, and now by animating it, was a rare phenomenon. The continual activity of her soul communicated itself to our minds, but without excess; her imagination was its spring, her reason its regulator. And take notice that the heads she thus moved at her will were neither weak nor light: the Condillacs and the Turgots were of the number; d'Alembert by her side was like a simple and a docile child. Her talent for throwing out an idea, and giving it for debate to men of this class; her talent for discussing it herself, and, like them, with precision, sometimes with eloquence; her talent for introducing new ideas and varying conversation, always with the ease and the facility of a fairy who, with a stroke of her wand, changes at her will the scene of her enchantments; this talent, I say, was not that of an ordinary woman. It was not with the follies of fashion and vanity that she every day, during four hours of conversation, without langour, and without interval, knew how to render herself interesting to a circle of enlightened men."...II. p. 321—2.

This character, it will easily be believed, gave us an extreme curiosity to learn something more of the extraordinary creature who inspired it, and we entered with no common interest upon M. Marmontel's account of her history. We are concerned to say, however, that the detail of it seemed to correspond very ill with this magnificent eulogy, and that Madlle. l'Espinasse has suffered dreadfully in our estimation since we perused it. She was a girl of no family, employed by an old Marchioness to read to her, and dismissed by her for engrossing the attention of the literary men who resorted to her. Captivated with d'Alembert, and fond of his society, but too proud and too ambitious to marry a man of no fortune, she seems to have laid herself out, like other adventurers of the same class, to captivate some man of family or fashion, whom her conversation might have been able to seduce into a connexion that she must have known would ruin him. After having spread her snares unsuccessfully for two or three of her countrymen, she contrived, at last, to entangle a noble Spaniard to such a degree, that he was recalled by

his family; and then, as his health was impaired, she assisted in forging a certificate from a physician to get him back into her power; and died of vexation and disappointment when his premature death frustrated her unjustifiable projects. Let the reader try if he can make any thing more than this of Marmontel's more animated narrative.

'The ardent soul and romantic imagination of Madlle. l'Espinasse made her conceive the project of rising from the narrow mediocrity in which she was fearful of finishing her days. With all the means she possessed of seducing and of pleasing, even without being beautiful, it appeared to her very possible, that, in the number of her friends, and even among the most distinguished, some one might be so in love with her, as to offer her his hand. This ambitious hope, more than once deceived, did not despond; it changed its object, always more exalted, and so lively, that it might have been taken for the intoxication of love. For instance, she was at one time so passionately struck with what she called the heroism and the genius of Guibert, that in the art of war and for the talent of writing, she saw nothing comparable to him. Yet he escaped her like the rest. Then it was the conquest of the Marquis de Mora, a young Spaniard of high birth, to whom she thought she might aspire; and indeed, whether it were love or enthusiasm, this young man had conceived a passionate sentiment for her. We saw him more than once in adoration before her, and the impression she had made on his soul assumed so serious a character that the family of the marquis hastened to recall him. Madlle. l'Espinasse, crossed in her desires, was no longer the same with d'Alembert; and he not only endured her coldness and caprice, but often the bitterness of her wounded temper. He brooked his sorrows, and complained only to me. Unhappy man! such were his devotion and his obedience to her, that in the absence of M. de Mora, it was he who used to go early in a morning to ask for his letters at the post-office, and bring them to her when she awoke. At last, the young Spaniard falling sick in his own country, and his family waiting only his recovery to marry him suitably, Madlle. l'Espinasse contrived to have pronounced, by a physician at Paris, that the climate of Spain would be mortal to him; that, if his friends wished to save his life, they should send him to breath the air of France; and this consultation, dictated by Madlle. l'Espinasse, was obtained by d'Alembert from his intimate friend Lorry, one of the most celebrated physicians at Paris. The authority of Lorry, supported by the patient, had in Spain all its effect. The young man was suffered to set off on his return; but he died on the road; and the deep sorrow that Madlle. l'Espinasse felt at it, completed the destruction of that frail machine that her soul had ruined and brought her to the grave.' Vol. II. p. 329--31.

(To be continued.)

To the Editor of the Observer.

I have lately received Dr. Caldwell's oration on Qurantines. It is highly interesting to all our citizens, I would therefore recommend your republication of it, in such portions as may suit the convenience of your paper. If you should coincide with me in opinion, I shall furnish you with some remarks which may perhaps contribute in some measure to enhance the utility of that performance.

AN ANNIVERSARY ORATION.

Gentlemen of the society,

The profession of medicine is, at present stript of much of the dark cabalistical covering, which once concealed it from the public eye. The knowledge of it has, long since, ceased to be regarded as a *speciale Dei donum*, a peculiar endowment from above, and is now justly ranked, with other scientific pursuits, among the objects of human attainment. Nor are its most illustrious cultivators any longer venerated as the descendants of the gods. Still, however, it preserves, and is worthy of preserving, a distinguished place in the catalogue of the sciences. It is still far from forming any part of that common stock of information, collected by mankind in their passage through life. It is, perhaps, more peculiarly than any other, an insulated profession, and that of such extent and variety, as to be wholly beyond the reach and comprehension of all, except its particular votaries. For it is worthy of remark, that no one devoted to other pursuits, has ever become eminent in the science and the profession of medicine. This branch of human knowledge alone, affords matter sufficient for the exercise of the highest talents applied with unceasing industry, and continued in action during the longest life.

If these observations be true (and I presume their truth will not be controverted) it is peculiarly fortunate that medical subjects, though frequently the topics of general and promiscuous discussion, are but seldom the objects of civil legislation. Circumstances have, however, occasionally occurred, to cause some of them to be acted on by legislative bodies. It is to be lamented that this has, of late years, been the case, in various instances, in our own country. I speak of the event as a matter of regret, because the deliberations on this subject have not only been wholly inadequate to the end in view; but, what is much worse, they originated in error, were conducted without knowledge, and terminated in mischief. If they have not actually increased the very evil they were intended to prevent, they have, at least, without diminishing it, associated it with others of their own creation. They have added another, and I hope a convincing proof, to those before existing, that the science of medical judisprudence is beyond

the sphere of common lawgivers, and that none but medical characters should ever be deputed to its high and interesting concerns.

You no doubt, perceive, gentlemen, that I speak in allusion to the systems of quarantine, established of late by several of our state legislatures, with a view to protect our shores from the ravages of pestilence. Though these establishments were, probably, the result of some reflection, and certainly of the best intentions, on the part of their founders, yet experience has proved them to be erroneous in their principles, and destructive in their tendency. Considered in a national point of view, they are worse—much worse than the evil they were intended to prevent. Growing, however, as they have done, out of the present state of public opinion relative to the origin and nature of our pestilential diseases, and being perfectly accommodated to that state, nothing short of a general and radical change in this opinion, would be adequate either to abolish or to reform them. But such a change cannot be produced by any single effort, however wise or however powerful. It must be a work of time, and can be accomplished only by a zealous co-operation of many individuals.

But to whom shall the important work of effecting this change be entrusted? and what description of characters is best calculated to conduct it to a successful issue? It is to the lawyer, the statesman, or the divine, that the management and fate of this business should be committed? or, is it not rather to the votaries of medicine who, from their knowledge of the subject are alone equal to the difficulty of the task?

To you, gentlemen, of the medical society...To you, gentlemen, of the medical class in general, I hope and believe, that no inconsiderable part of the honour of this enterprize will belong. And trust me, it is an enterprise worthy of your ambition...worthy of your exertions...An enterprise not confined in its duration to the present times; but enfolding in its wide embrace nations the most distant, and extending to ages the most remote. It is an enterprise which will in future times, be regarded as the first effectual blow aimed at the existence of that false idol, that seductive Dagon in medicine, which, for nearly four centuries, has commanded the homage of the nations of Christendom.

It is proper, gentlemen, that you should be duly sensible of your own peculiar fitness, both as to qualifications and opportunities, for co-operating in this important enterprise. Devoted as you are, and must be, by the nature of your profession, to observation and enquiry, you will be naturally looked up to by your fellow-citizens as sources of correct information and wholesome advice, particularly in matters relating to the science of medicine. Established, as you will shortly be, in the practice of your profession, in every part of the United States, you will,

be capable, from your widely extended influence, of acting, in some measure, on the mind of the whole nation at once. By cultivating, therefore, an unity of sentiment, and by observing a proper concert in your measures and exertions, on any one point, it will be in your power to produce, in relation to that point, somewhat of a national effect. The numerous impressions made by each of you in person, spreading from you individually, as from so many centres, will expand and unite, like adjacent ripples on the peaceful water, till the whole of your fellow-citizens shall feel the impulse. Let the point you may choose to act on be, *the errors into which our state legislatures have fallen relative to systems of quarantine,* and the evils arising from these sysems cannot fail to be done away.

Having, then, the power to subserve the interest of truth, and of your country, on this subject, the exercise of that power must be left to your own wisdom and discretion. I have no doubt, however, but you will be found as prompt and zealous, as you are capable of being efficacious and usesul, in your exertions. To convince you of my readiness to co-operate with you, to the full extent of my abilities, and even to expose myself in the front of this war against error and prejudice, I will here submit to your consideration a few remarks on the subject of quarantines. Perhaps a brief view of the origin of these institutions, and of the circumstances attending their first establishment, may aid us in judging of their rationality and usefulness.

(To be continued.)

MAGIC.

" 'Twas wond'rous strange."

The most difficult operation of magic in all ages, has been to raise departed spirits from the tomb; a prodigy which Schrepfer made no secret of his ability to perform. Prince Charles of Saxony, having earnestly, as well as repeatedly besought it; after many refusals, real or affected, obtained at length a reluctant promise to present before his eyes an apparition; for Schrepfer artfully professed the greatest repugnance and disinclination to the act, as being perilous to himself, and attended with various circumstances of horror. It only remained therefore, to fix the spirit to be summoned. After long consideration, the Chevalier de Saxe was named, and Schrepfer undertook to produce his ghost before a select company. The place chosen for the experiment, was Prince Charles's Palace in Dresden. But, as it was well known that the Elector having the misfortune to be neither credulous, nor inclined to permit such exhibitions in his capital, might disapprove and prohibit it, the strictest secrecy was observed previous to the affair.

The Chevalier de Saxe, third in order of birth among the natural sons of Augustus the Second, King of Poland, was only half brother to the famous Marshal Saxe, as they were by different mothers. In right of his wife, who was a Princess Lubomirska, of a very illustrious Polish family, the Chevalier inherited considerable property in that country, as well as in Saxony. He resided principally in Dresden, and died only a few years ago, at his palace in this city ; which his nephew Prince Charles, who was his principal heir, occupied after his decease. In addition to his maternal estates the Chevalier possessed a vast income from his military and other appointments in the electoral service ; and as he left no issue, he was supposed to have amassed great sums. Reports had been circulated, that money was concealed in the palace ; but no one pretended to ascertain the precise place where it was deposited. If his spirit could be compelled to appear, that interesting secret might be extorted from him. Thus curiosity combining with avarice, or at least with the hope of discovering a considerable treasure, prompted Prince Charles to name his uncle, as the object of the experiment.

On the appointed night ; for Schrepfer naturally preferred darkness, as not only more private in itself, but better calculated for the effect of incantations ; the company assembled....They were nineteen in number, of whom I personally know several, who are persons of consideration, character and respectability... When they were met in the great gallery of the palace, the first object of all present was to secure the windows and doors, in order equally to prevent intrusion or deception. As far as precaution could effect it, they did so, and were satisfied that nothing except violence could procure access or entrance. Schrepfer then acquainted them, that the act which he was about to perform, would demand all their firmness ; and advised them to fortify their nerves by partaking of a bowl of punch, which was placed upon the table. Several of them, indeed, as I believe, all except one or two, thinking the exhortation judicious, very readily followed it ; but, the gentleman from whom I received these particulars, declined the advice. " I am come here," said he to Schrepfer, " to be present at raising an apparition... " Either I will see all or nothing. My resolution is taken, and " no inducement can make me put any thing into my lips "... Another of the company, who preserved his presence of mind, placed himself close to the principal door, in order to watch if any one attempted to open or force it. These preparatory steps being taken, the great work began with the utmost solemnity.

Schrepfer commenced it, by retiring into a corner of the gallery, where kneeling down, with many mysterious ceremonies he invoked the spirits to appear, or rather to come to his aid ; for it is allowed that none were ever visible. A very considerable time elapsed before they obeyed ; during which interval,

he laboured apparently under great agitation of body and mind, being covered with a violent sweat, and almost in convulsions, like the Pythoness of antiquity. At length, a loud clatter was heard at all the windows on the outside ; which was soon followed by another noise, resembling more the effect produced by a number of wet fingers drawn over the edge of glasses, than any thing else to which it could well be compared. This sound announced, as he said, the arrival of his good or protecting spirits, and seemed to encourage him to proceed. A short time afterwards, a yelling was heard, of a frightful and unusual nature, which came, he declared, from the malignant spirit whose presence, as it seems, was necessary and indispensable to the completion of the catastrophe.

The company were now, at least the greater part, electrified with amazement, or petrified with horror ; and of course fully prepared for every object which could be presented to them... Schrepfer continuing his invocations, the door suddenly opened with violence, and something that resembled a black ball or globe, rolled into the room. It was invested with smoke or cloud, in the midst of which appeared to be a human face, like the countenance of the Chevalier de Saxe ; much in the same way, it would seem, that Corregio or Hannibal Carrache have represented Jupiter appearing to Semelé. From this form issued a loud and angry voice, which exclaimed in German, " Carl, was wolte du mit mich ?" " Charles, what wouldst thou with me ? Why dost thou disturb me ?"

Language, as may be supposed, can ill describe the consternation produced among the spectators at such a sight. Either firmly persuaded that the appearance which they beheld, was spiritual and intangible ; or deprived of resolution to approach and attempt to seize it ; they appear to have made no effort to satisfy themselves of its incorporeal nature. The prince, whose impious curiosity had summoned his uncle's ghost, and to whom, as the person principally responsible, the spectre addressed itself ; far from manifesting coolness, or attempting reply, betrayed the strongest marks of horror and contrition. Throwing himself on his knees, he called on God for mercy ; while others of the terrified party earnestly besought the magician to give the only remaining proof of his art for which they now were anxious, by dismissing the apparition. But, Schrepfer, though apparently willing, found, or pretend to find this effort beyond his power. However incredible, absurd, or ridiculous it may be thought, the persons who witnessed the scene, protest that near an hour elapsed, before, by the force of his invocations, the spectre could be compelled to disappear. Nay, when at length Schrepfer had succeeded in dismissing it ; at the moment that the company began to resume a degree of serenity, the door, which had been closed, burst open again and the same hideous form presented itself a new to their eyes. The most resolute and collected

among them, were not proof to its second appearance, and a scene of universal dismay ensued. Schrepfer, however, by reiterated exorcisms or exertions, finally dismissed the apparition. The terrified spectators soon dispersed, overcome with amazement, and fully satisfied, as they well might be, of Schrepfer's supernatural powers.

Having thus related as seriously and circumstantially as I am able, the principal facts relative to the affair in question, it is natural to ask my own opinion of the story; and to demand whether I can explain or account for it in any rational manner. To such inquiries I must frankly reply, that I can neither give any satisfactory solution of it, nor have I heard any attempted, except the obvious one of human credulity and terror, operated upon by imposture and deception. But, the manner in which so wonderful an illusion was produced, I am, in common with every person here, at a loss to understand. I believe, no one has yet clearly explained how the liquefaction of St. Januarius' blood is performed; though out of Naples, I imagine few persons attribute it to miraculous or supernatural interposition. We know from experience, how prodigious are the deceptions practised in and upon optics. Nineteen men, met together for the avowed purpose of seeing an apparition, and believing that it is in human power to render a departed spirit visible, are already half subdued to any thing, however gross. Night, darkness, and the imposing solemnity of magic invocations, bereave the strongest minds of their self-possession. A bold and artful imposter might then trample on their reason, and present to their eyes some hideous figure properly accoutred for the occasion. It must, however, always excite some astonishment and more regret, that among near twenty persons, not one should have endeavoured to lay hands on the spectre. Its second appearance is likewise a circumstance very difficult to account for, as it was unnecessary in order to produce conviction, which had been fully effected. That it was a deception, no man of sound understanding will doubt; but how it was managed or produced, the persons who were duped, have not yet discovered. They are all, or nearly all, still alive in this country, and they by no means boast of their adventure, or derive from it any sort of vanity. On the contrary, independent of the ridicule, they all feel and express the utmost repugnance to relating, or even recollecting a scene, which has impressed on their imagination so much horror. Their very friends dread and deprecate a renewal of the images then presented to those who were present; and a lady earnestly besought of me, not to press her husband on a subject, of which he could never think or converse without passing a sleepless night. We must be content therefore to resolve it into German credulity or superstition, and congratulate ourselves on our superiority to such puerile terrors.

[*Wraxall's Memoirs.*]

For the Observer.

POLITICAL.

Crimination of all the powers of Europe...(Continued.)

RUSSIA, SWEDEN AND DENMARK; NAPLES, PORTUGAL AND TURKEY.

Little can be said of those powers of the North, of whom it yet remains for us to speak any more than of Turkey, at least with regard to the object of these observations....But such is the influence of the tenebrous spirit that shed dimness on the eyes of all the sovereigns of Europe, that the Czars of Russia even have not been exempt from reproach. It is however just to acknowledge, that it was they who made the most generous and disinterested efforts, in interfering in a quarrel, the theatre of which was so far removed from their frontiers, and from which they had less to fear than any other power. Nevertheless, no one is ignorant of the alliance which Paul the first contracted with Buonaparte, calling him his *dear friend*, at the very time that the latter so profoundly humiliated the Russian armies, and when Suwarrow was reduced to die with sorrow under unjust disgrace. The Emperor Alexander also may be reproached, I will not say with the tardiness only, with which he engaged in a decisive opposition, when the authority of Buonaparte was yet continually attacked in the interior, before he had made himself Emperor; but also, the silence he has since preserved in all his manifestoes, with regard to the cause of the former monarchy and kings of France. This reserve was a sequel of the feeble system of politics, which by a marked fatality, prompted these governments to believe, that they owed to revolutionized France, the same consideration and respect by which they had hitherto been bound, in treating with regular governments, who were themselves restrained, by the law of nations which wisely preserved (as it has been too late discovered) the equilibrium of the powers of Europe.

Posterity will with difficulty conceive, that towards men who were lost to all decency; towards governors who never declared any other than a *war of extermination* to their enemies, deference and respect were always observed, and only half means adopted; as if weakness and irresolution, could ever hope to avail, against the most unbridled audacity and ambition!

Russia, like all the other powers, in neglecting, even refusing, ingenuously and categorically to declare her object in the war, gave the tyrants of France the liberty of representing it in such way as would best serve their purpose, and incline their legions to march again in unison against the coalition; and I once more assert, that on the contrary, presenting to the French nation, continually the idea of the restoration of the Bourbons, was the only method by which division would have been kept up amongst them; and the obstinacy with which the princes were held at a distance from the diplomatic as well as the military

scene of action, amply proves, that all the coalesced powers had no other plan, but to endeavour to subdue France, without the interference of the French princes, in order to chuse for them the rank and the fate it would please them to suffer these to enjoy, at the price of the degradation of their crown and the humiliation of their country.

Two governments alone, however, merit to be excepted from this body of accusation ; these are Portugal and Naples : which though weak and insulated themselves, sustained the cause of Europe, and of England, her ally, with all the courage, the constancy, and the nobleness, which the mediocrity of their resources could leave them the possibility of doing. And certainly the preservation of the last of these powers until this time, would have been a prodigy, if Buonaparte did not apprehend that the day on which he took possession of Portugal, England would immediately seize all the Portuguese possessions beyond sea.

As to what regards the uncertain politics of the *Porte*, and the complaisance with which Denmark became the auxiliary of France ; a complaisance which cost her the memorable lesson which the enterprising Nelson gave her in Copenhagen itself (the 2d. of April 1801) : these weaknesses can only delay for a time, but certainly not avert, the invasion of the Bosphorus on one side, and the Sund at the other extremity of Europe. In remaining neuter when their neighbours were fighting with France, the Porte and Denmark could only expect to become the prey of the conquerors when the powers of the first order should be humbled. These two courts were then more interested than any others in the restoration of the Bourbons, and the former system of equilibrium, which protected the lesser powers against the greater, because in remaining both inactive in the cause of all sovereigns, Denmark did not incur less risk of being usurped by the Prussians, than did Constantinople of being taken by the Russians.

But if there is reason to be astonished at the *longanimity* of any government, it certainly is at that of Sweden. Gustavus the third, the only *knightly king* that was then in Europe ; the only monarch who felt what circumstances and the duties of royalty prescribed, had been basely assassinated at a ball, in March 1792, by Ankastrom, one of the fanatic disciples of the famous *Jacobin Propagande* of Paris. Could it have been expected that even the very regency would have countenanced the anarchical principles, which had just given birth to such a crime ; and that the son of Gustavus would have revenged the blood of his father, only by tardy and private declamations, during the two memorable campaigns of 1805 and 1806, and yet personal outrages had not on any occasion been spared him, neither at Paris, nor in his diplomatic transactions ; and he had only avoided the fate of the duke de' Enghien by secretly escaping in the middle of the night, from the palace of his

father-in-law the new elector of Bade, where the Corsican Sebastiani, dispatched by the Cabinet of St. Cloud, presented himself for the purpose of arresting him.

If we discover in this young prince upright and loyal intentions, it is impossible not to acknowledge that menaced as he was by the personal hatred of Buonaparte, he has forever lost the opportunity of working his own preservation at the time that he squandered so much money and time, in insignificant and expensive journies into Germany, notwithstanding the low state of his finances, and the cost which would have been much better employed without doubt, in placing his country in a condition efficaciously to interfere in this quarrel of kings, without waiting until all the allies should be destroyed or dispersed.

M. A.

Errata....No. 9, p. 132, line 15—for government, read governments.

VARIETY.

HISTORICAL EPHEMERIS.

7th of March, 1751—A violent storm raged at Nantz, which destroyed 66 vessels and 800 sailors.

7th of March 1793,—the national convention ordered general Miranda, who had just raised the siege of Maestrich, under arrest, and sent him in chains to Brussels.

The same day the convention declared war against Spain.

ANECDOTE OF A LONDON JOURNALIST.

An intimate friend of the editor of a periodical paper in London, came to him one day and asked him to tell him ingenuously whether he had had him in view, in a ridiculous personification which had recently appeared in his paper, and which had excited much amusement amongst his very intelligent readers. Have your wits forsaken you? cried the editor...or have you so bad an opinion of yourself, as to recognise your own picture in such a caricature, and so bad an opinion of me, as to suppose me capable of such malignity? But it is my best friends, resumed the good man, who have thought they recognised me in the character—your best friends!! resumed the editor. I congratulate you on possessing such, who can entertain such flattering prepossessions in your favour. Pardon me, replied the complainant; all the town admire the talents, the genius, the profound penetration of Doctor * * *, and it was he who informed me with the greatest solicitude, of the fears he entertained on the subject.—You will give me leave to tell you, cried our editor, that this famous Doctor is, indeed, an original sort of friend!.....It is true, that superior men do not always confine themselves within the laws, to which those beings, who, like myself, creep along the earth, are subject..... He may regard *friendship* quite in a different light to that in which I view it: nevertheless, I should think the *charity* he has had in making so absurd and extravagant an application, must have some secret motive, nothing less than favourable to the cause of *friendship*, and above all, inimical to that which exists between us.

O, friendship! is it thus thy name and language are assumed, the more effectually to insult and to afflict!!!

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